

ONWARD TO RICHMOND!

Another Brilliant Action with the Rebels.

The Enemy Still in Full Retreat.

McClellan Pushing Him to the Wall.

The Rebels Driven Across the Chickahominy.

THE BATTLE AT WILLIAMSBURG.

Interesting and Graphic Account of Hancock's Famous Bayonet Charge.

The Wonderful Infantry Charge of the Rebels.

NAPOLEONIC MOVEMENTS OF MCCLELLAN.

The Change on the Field of Battle on His Taking Command.

OPINION OF THE KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING.

The Rapid Following Up of His Successes by McClellan.

GENERAL SUMNER'S OPINION.

THE ROADS TO RICHMOND.

THE VERY LATEST.

Most brilliant and gratifying news continues to pour in from General McClellan's headquarters: on Sunday at Yorktown, on Monday in front of Williamsburg, on Tuesday in Williamsburg, and on Wednesday ten miles beyond on the banks of the Chickahominy. We give all the details of the important operations on these four days that our space will permit. Our special reporter's account of Hancock's famous bayonet charge, and of the splendid maneuvers of Wheeler's New York battery on receiving the wonderful charge of three thousand rebel infantry, show the pluck, skill and endurance of the American soldier.

THE NEWS.

DESPATCH FROM GEN. MARCY TO DR. MARCY.

Dr. E. E. MARCY:—

General McClellan on the 6th inst. had a most decisive victory.

Only about thirty thousand of our troops were engaged against fifty thousand of the best rebel troops.

Our men fought most valiantly, and used the bayonet freely, which the rebels could not stand. They fought well until they felt the cold steel, when they took to their heels and ran like hounds, leaving their dead, wounded and sick upon our hands.

Joe Johnston led them in person.

They have lost several of their best officers.

R. B. MARCY.

RETREAT OF THE REBEL FORCES.

Battle of Williamsburg—Operations of the Fourth Corps.

WHEN THEY HEARD AND WHEN THEY INTENDED TO GO. On Friday, May 2, at night, the rebel forces began their retreat from the position at Lee's Mill and the other works which had been occupied by their right, and which stretch in a nearly continuous line down to the James river. Transportation for medical stores, &c., was furnished to the Chickahominy river, as appears by an order found in the fort after their departure. By another order found, one which is dated Saturday, May 3, General Cobb was ordered to send captains of companies that were to be on picket that night to headquarters, in order that these captains might be instructed in relation to the roads to be taken by them that night. Before daylight on Sunday not a man was left, and at six in the morning on that day Lieutenant B. Frank Fisher, United States Signal Corps, from the tower on our front, made the discovery that the enemy's fort nearest to us was empty. There was a disappointment for somebody, for preparation had been made to storm that very fort on Sunday night. However, we had it at a cheaper rate. On General Smith's front, also, the discovery of the enemy's retreat was made at a very early hour, and from both points word was at once sent to General Sumner. From after it came information from General Sumner that the enemy was in full retreat toward Williamsburg by the Halfway House. General Key at once ordered forward Graham's brigade, of Couch's division, Colonel Adams commanding; Negley's brigade, of Couch's division; the Fifth regiment, United States cavalry, Major Wheeler commanding; and three batteries of light artillery. This was the first movement of the army, and it was made at Lee's Mill, where General Negley was stationed, and the cavalry pushed forward to the James river, while the rest of the army moved on the road towards the Halfway House.

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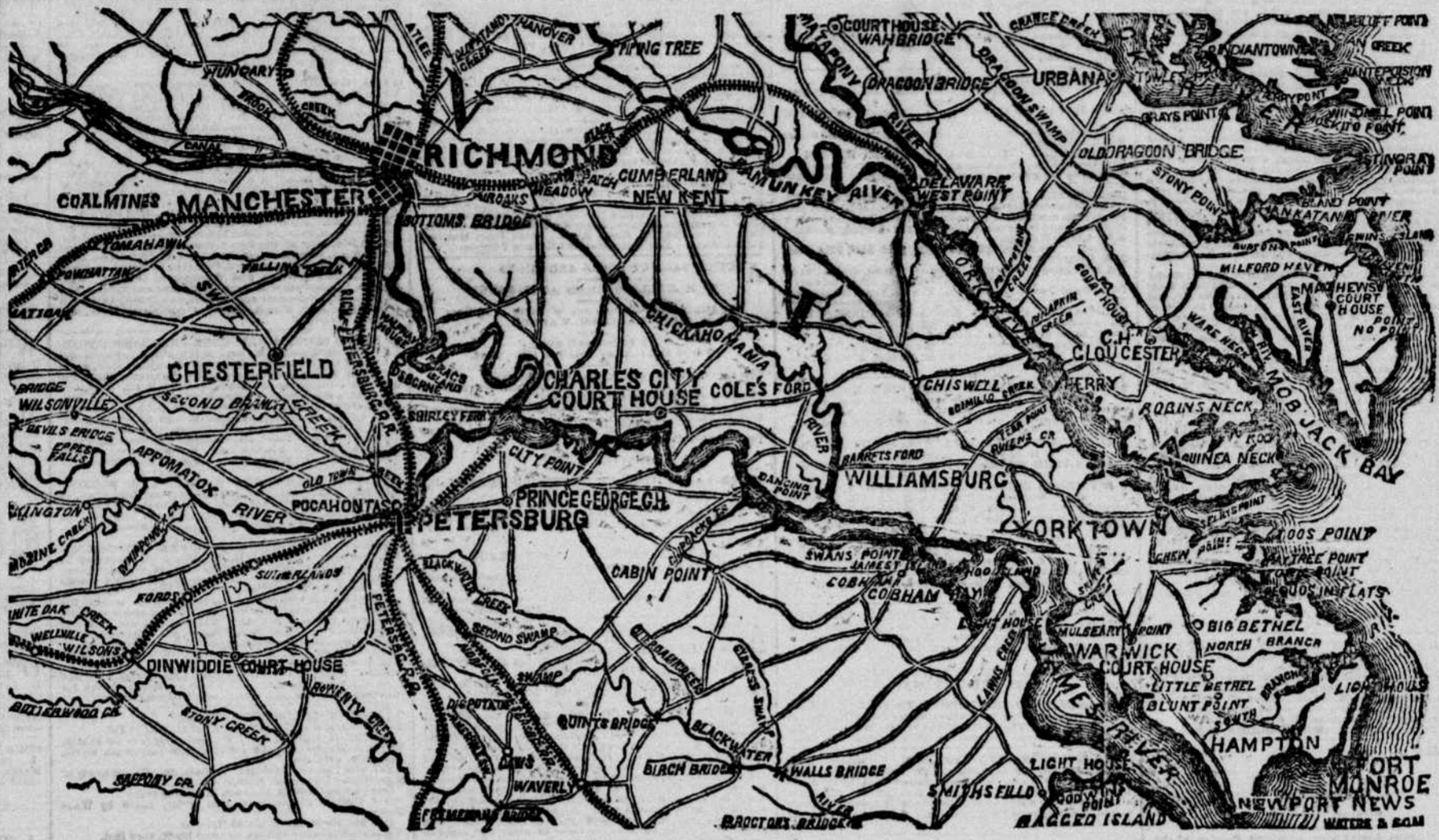
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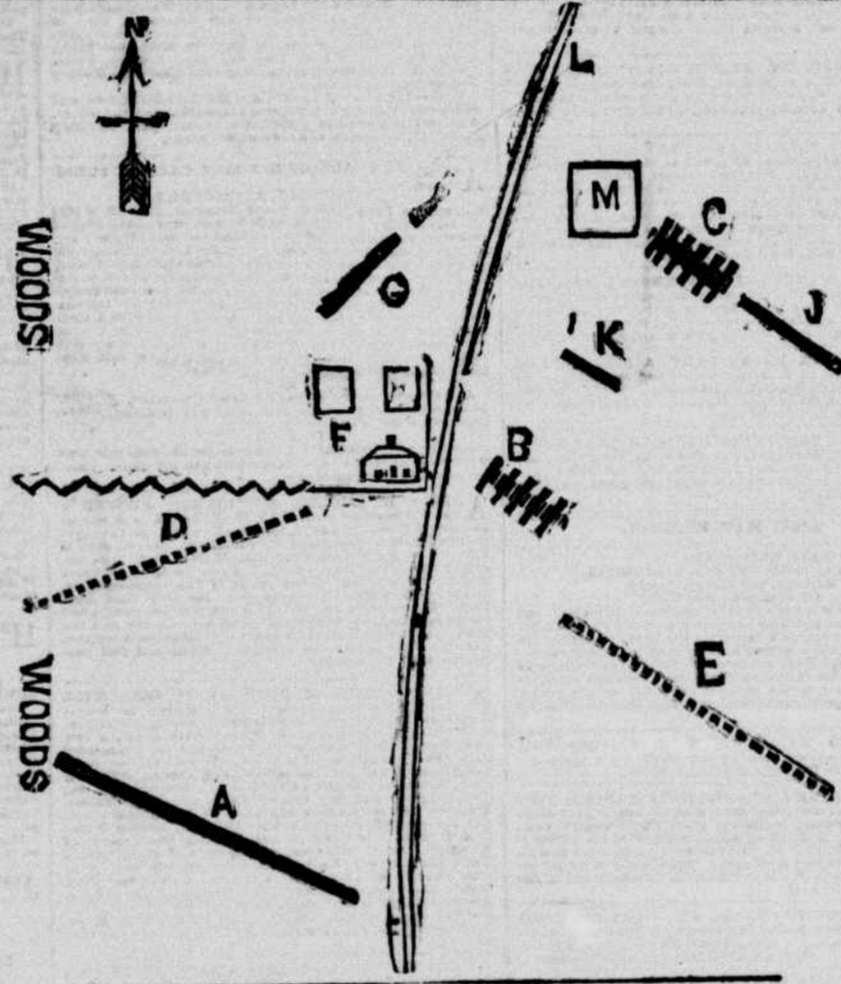
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THE ROUTE TO RICHMOND.

The Line of the Chickahominy—The Roads from Williamsburg to the Rebel Capital.



SCENE OF HANCOCK'S FAMOUS BAYONET CHARGE.



- A—Point at which the Confederates emerged from the wood and formed.
- B—First position of Wheeler's battery.
- C—Second position of Wheeler's battery.
- D—Skirmishers of Fifth Wisconsin and Forty-third New York.
- E—Skirmishers of Sixth Maine.
- F—Farm House and Barns.
- G—Line of Forty-third New York and Fifth Wisconsin regiments.
- H—Line of Sixth Maine regiment.
- I—Point at which the rebel line was charged and broke.
- J—Road of Hancock's advance.
- K—First redoubt taken by Hancock.

OUR FRONT.

Smith's division was formed on the right front of our line of battle, and some portion of its artillery boomed the enemy at long range, while its three brigades of infantry were held in hand ready to participate when called upon. They were called upon soon. From what we had learned of a good road that led through the woods to our right, and approached the enemy's position upon a side from which we had not hitherto seen it. General Hancock's brigade, with Wheeler's New York battery, was accordingly sent out by this road. After a long and cautious march through the woods, and a wide circuit which opened in full view of the York river, the head of the column found an unmistakable evidence that the enemy had expected an advance by this way. To the left of the line of march there was a wide, full dam, and for some distance the road had formerly run close by the water side; but the dam had now been so raised that the road was flooded and impassable for a considerable distance. No time was to be lost, and a party at once got to work to cut a new road through the woods over a steep hill, and did the work as well as circumstances would permit. But the bed of the new road was of yellow clay, and as the rain poured down and softened it, the artillery sank deeper and deeper into it at every turn of the wheel. Still it tolled on bravely and with a will, and finally came out to a wide open field in full view of the rebels of considerable size, but not pierced for cannon. Why the enemy had occupied these works at all it would be difficult to say; for no sooner was our fire opened upon the nearest than the rebels burst out of it in complete stampede, and made good time in a safe direction. So they did also from the second and third, which stood in line with one another across the plain upon which our column advanced. At the time, about two P. M., General Hancock sent back word to the division commander, General Smith, that he had a fair chance to go on, and that if well supported he could certainly carry Fort Magruder. General Smith had a short time before asked permission to go forward, and had been ordered to remain where he was; but he sent General Hancock's message to General Sumner, with a renewed request for permission to go forward. Order came, in answer, for him to go on, with his whole division, to Hancock's support. Shortly, however, he had a few more words, very preliminary words, to the officers about him before the order just given was countermanded by General Sumner, and General Smith was ordered to remain his

men exactly in the position they then held. By this last order two hours of incalculable value were lost to our army.

HANCOCK WANTS TO GO AHEAD.

Several times General Hancock sent back urgent appeals for more force; but none was sent, and he was compelled to remain in the position he had taken near the first redoubt. Doubtless the enemy supposed that to be the result of timidity. They in turn determined to advance, hoping, perhaps, to repeat what they had already done on our left. Out of this movement of theirs grew what proved to be the fight of the day—a fight that was in itself a hard fought and beautiful battle; a battle in which each side must have learned to respect the courage of the other, and which sheds glory upon every man engaged in it.

THE FORCE ENCOUNTERED BY HANCOCK.

Different statements have been made as to the force the enemy had engaged in this movement. One prisoner stated that there were six regiments, and another that they were led by two generals. It is probable that there were two brigades, or parts of two. One of these was General Early's, and comprised the First North Carolina and Twenty-fourth Virginia regiments and a Georgia regiment. Dead men were found on the field in the uniform of the Louisiana Tigers. Beyond this we cannot designate the regiments; but it would be safe to state the force at three thousand. On our part this force was encountered by the Sixth Maine, the Fifth Wisconsin and the Forty-third New York regiments, and Captain Wheeler's battery of volunteer artillery, with some guns also, we believe, of Captain Kennedy's battery; but Captain Kennedy was on duty in another part of the field.

THE FIELD.

General Hancock's position was in an open plain of about two miles in length from north to south, and about a mile in width. He had entered it at the northern end, and at the other stands Fort Magruder. About a mile and a half above Fort Magruder, and half a mile away from the line of woods that bounds the plain on the left, are a farmhouse and two barns. A fence stretches from this farmhouse to the woods. Between the farmhouse and Fort Magruder are two redoubts, and three hundred yards above the farmhouse is the first redoubt. Around this farmhouse, General Hancock's men were posted. Wheeler's battery was in position by the corner of the farm towards the plain, and commanded the whole field below it. Behind, and well toward the first redoubt on the left, was the Sixth Maine regiment, and between the

minutes he had gathered around him nearly all the general officers then accessible, heard the accounts of what had occurred to see at once and very clearly just how matters stood. Scarcely ten minutes had elapsed after his arrival in the field before he gave the order to support Gen. Hancock and to press the advantage already gained in that direction; and in five minutes more seven thousand men were on the march for that point. Night fell before they reached it, and no more was done that day; but there, as subsequent examination proved, was the enemy's weak point and the General saw at once what, alas! a whole army had blundered over all day.

Another anecdote. Weary with a hard day's work, all sank down readily enough where they stood that night, and, thanks to ploughed land and a whole day's rain, the soldiers' bed for once was soft.

KILLED AND WOUNDED.

One hundred and three men wounded during the day had been brought into the hospital near headquarters, and, under the personal supervision of Dr. Joseph B. Brown, Medical Director of the Fourth corps, their wounds were all dressed by a P. M. Of the killed, it was ascertained in Hancock's division we cannot at present speak; but the whole loss in the Fourth will not exceed fifty killed and one hundred and thirty wounded.

WHAT THE NEXT DAY TOLD US.

At daylight we found all the forts in our front, and Williamsburg itself, completely abandoned by the rebel army, save only the dead and wounded. All along the roads and in the woods we found the enemy's dead, but unburied, and his wounded in their agonies. Every barn was full of them, and every house in Williamsburg also, and the enemy's loss cannot have been less than a thousand killed and wounded.

OTHER ACCOUNTS OF THE BATTLE.

Lynchburg, May 8, 1862.

The following is from the American account of the battle at Williamsburg:—

The battle before Williamsburg on Monday was a most valiant contest. Owing to the roughness of the country and bad condition of the roads, but a small portion of our troops could be brought into action. General Sickles' Excelsior Brigade and General Hooker's division bore the great brunt of the battle, and fought most valiantly throughout, though greatly overpowered by numbers and the superior position and earthworks of the enemy. The approaches to their works were a series of ravines and swamps, while the rain fell in torrents throughout the day. The men who had been lying on their arms all the previous night in a wood, and were soaked with the rain and chilled with cold.

The battle raged from early in the morning until five o'clock in the afternoon, when General McClellan arrived with fresh troops, and relieved the troops of General Hooker, who were nearly prostrate with fatigue and exposure, whilst the Third Texas regiment of Sickles' brigade had its ranks terribly thinned by the balls of the enemy. They are represented as having fought with such important bravery that not less than two hundred of them were killed and wounded.

After the arrival of General McClellan, the enemy were fiercely charged by Hancock's brigade, and were driven within their works before daylight with heavy loss. Nearly seven hundred of their dead were left on the field, with many wounded, though most of the latter were carried into Williamsburg. Our loss was less than three hundred killed and about seven hundred wounded.

Night having come on, we occupied the battle field, the enemy having been driven within his works, and our force laid on their arms, prepared to storm the works in the morning.

At daylight on Tuesday morning General McClellan sent out scouts, while preparing to move on the enemy's works, who soon reported that he had again taken his flight during the night.

The works of the enemy and the city of Williamsburg were then taken.

Fort Magruder was a most extensive work, capable of prolonged defence; but the enemy had abandoned it early in the night, retreating in the greatest alarm and confusion, as described by a few negro women who were found in the town.

A large number of wagons, munitions, and considerable store provisions were found in the town, whilst the road was strewn for many miles with arms and accoutrements.

A number of deserters also made their escape and came within our lines, who stated that they had received intelligence that large numbers of federal troops were landing on York river, above Williamsburg, to flank them.

THE KILLED, WOUNDED AND MISSING.

Our lists of killed and wounded are, of course, incomplete and imperfect. We give the names as far as known:—

THE EXCELSIOR OR SICKLES BRIGADE.

KILLED.
Captain Barrett.
Captain Willard.
Lieutenant Bailey.

WOUNDED.
Assistant Adjutant General Hart was struck by four balls.

Colonel Dwight, wounded and taken prisoner, but let behind by the rebels.

Major Host, seriously, while leading on his men.

Captain Greenleaf, severely.

Captain Johnson, seriously.

Captain Waterman, seriously.

Lieutenant Hartney, seriously.

Lieutenant Marcus, seriously.

Sergeant Major Clarke, seriously.

Sergeant Packard, seriously.

The body of Captain Willard was rifled of his watch and money by the enemy, as were many of our dead. His remains are on route for New York.

FOURTH NEW YORK BATTERY.

CAPTAIN SMITH COMMANDING.

R. C. LOURY.

KILLED.

Corporal W. H. Pike, severely wounded.

Robert Egan, severely wounded.

George Cipos, severely wounded.

Joe Johnson, slightly.

E. G. Taylor, slightly.

THIRTY-SEVENTH NEW YORK REGIMENT.

COLONEL JACOB R. HATZEL COMMANDING.

KILLED.

First Lieutenant Patrick H. Hayes.

First Lieutenant J. O'Reilly.

Sergeant John Gallagher, Co. F.

Corporal McDevitt, Co. F.

Corporal Thomas Burke, Co. F.

Corporal W. Russell, Co. F.

Patrick Magan, Co. B.

Barnard Egan, Co. B.

W. Stevenson, Co. E.

W. Ryan, Co. E.

John Hickey, Co. G.

John Gaffey, Co. G.

Patrick McDevitt, Co. G.

John Green, Co. G.

W. Macintyre, Co. I.

Philo Turner, Co. I.

George P. Rick, Co. I.

Byron A. Ford, Co. I.

Lafayette Morrow, Co. I.

John McKell, Co. K.

Jas. McGuire, Co. K.

WOUNDED.

Captain Jas. F. McGuire.

Captain Wm. Delaney.

Lieutenant Flannell, Co. G.

Second Lieutenant John Massey.

Second Lieutenant Edward W. Brown.

Second Lieutenant James Smith.

Sergeant Owen Hamburg, Co. K.

Sergeant Fergus Greely, Co. G.

Corporal John Collins, Co. G.

Corporal Pat. Trigg, Co. G.

Corporal James Boyle, Co. G.

Corporal Hugh White, Co. G.

Corporal James A. Brown, Co. B.

Corporal James Kelly, Co. F.

Corporal Thomas Courcy, Co. G.

Corporal Thomas Campbell, Co. G.

(CONTINUED ON EIGHTH PAGE.)